

Philosophy

The Board believes that a forum should be provided for members of the public to express feedback and share information with the Board. Public participation at Board meetings is an important part of the community engagement process and should provide an opportunity for collaboration, partnership, and information sharing.

Participation

Public participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or comment on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.

Regular Business Meetings: public comment shall not be limited to items on the posted agenda.

Public Hearings: public comment shall be limited to the subject matter of the hearing.

All Other Board Meetings: public comment shall be limited to items on the posted agenda.

Public comment shall occur before the Board considers action on agenda items.

**Process to
Participate**

Except for Public Hearings, individuals who wish to participate during the portion of a meeting designated for public comment shall submit a request with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins as specified in the Board Operating Procedures. The request shall indicate the agenda item or topic on which the individual wishes to address the Board [see BED(EXHIBIT)]. Staff shall provide written confirmation to individuals that have successfully registered.

Except as permitted by this policy and the Board Operating Procedures on public comment, an individual's comments to the Board shall not exceed three minutes per meeting.

Board Operating Procedures include more information outlining the process to participate in the public comment portion of the meeting.

**Meeting
Management**

When necessary to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board or for effective meeting management, the presiding officer may make adjustments to public comment procedures. Adjustments may include establishing an overall time limit for public comment, adjusting the time allotted to each speaker, or deferring public comment on items that are not on the agenda. When adjustments are made, no individual shall be given less than one minute to make comments.

Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or make any decision regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.

The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. The presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have individuals removed from the meeting if the individual(s):

- Violates Board policy;
- Violates Board Operating Procedures; or
- After a warning from the presiding officer, continues to disrupt the meeting by their words or actions.

Complaints and Concerns

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether an individual requesting to address the Board has attempted to resolve the matter through resolution procedures established by policy. If not, the individual shall be referred to the appropriate policy to seek resolution but shall also have the opportunity to participate in the public comment section of the meeting. The following policies describe the complaint and grievance process available to members of the District community:

- Employee complaints: DGBA
- Student or parent complaints: FNG
- Public complaints: GF